

TONOPAH DAILY BONANZA

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MUST HOLD THE LINE

THEY are a plain spoken and rather brusque people over in Canada. In discussing war conditions they are not prone to polish off statements with an apologetic qualification but strike deep at the root of the subject by calling a spade a spade rather than an implement of husbandry. Canada has given 20 per cent of its entire population to help the mother country. This withdrawal naturally cramped industrial development by restricting production, but there was no protest from the business men or manufacturers, who stood inflection of the spur without wincing. Not so with the farmers who were first to murmur. They urged exemptions from the recently enacted draft on the plea that crops should be raised and grain harvested to sell at war prices. The outlook was lovely for the farmer and his banker until the government was asked to exempt farm hands. Then the lightning from a cloudless sky fell like a bolt from the blue and the accompanying thunder is still reverberating across the northern half of the American continent.

There was no euphemism in the rejoinder that fell upon the heads of the petitioners. In fact the reply was a distinct shock that struck right home in such a way that there could not be the slightest mistake or misunderstanding.

Sir Robert Borden, responding for the government, said more man-power was needed on the western front.

"I know whereof I am speaking when I tell you," he declared, "that if the channel ports should be reached through the breaking of that line, it would be, to say the least, extremely problematic whether any of that production of which you speak could be made of service to the allied nations overseas and to our men who are holding that line. I regard it as the supreme duty of this government to see that these men, some of whom have been fighting for three years, are sustained by such reinforcements as will enable them to hold the line."

This sums up the situation in the most concrete form, shattering the delusions that have been fostered by optimists and bringing the homeguards down to a stern realization of the one overpowering fact that the war has resolved itself into a question of man power. Unless more men and still more men are sent to the front to help the boys who have stood manfully by their guns through shot, shell and infernal gases for the past three years the thin line of defense will be dissipated as the mists of the night before the rising sun and the world will be overrun by the vandal hordes of the kaiser.

In view of the recent call from the food administrator for the practice of still greater economy in the consumption of wheat products there will not be enough to feed our own boys and the allied forces until the next harvest is garnered. It is up to us and every one of us to do what we can to save and, if necessary, to surrender what stocks of foodstuffs we have on hand that the mission of our armies may not be thwarted or delayed in accomplishment. If it should be demanded there must be no procrastination in complying even though it should take the last kernel of wheat out of this country for it means that after all we are simply abridging a physical comfort while the men over there are ready to shed the last drop of their blood in our defense.

General Pershing has done a wise act in taking into his own hands the publicity branch of the service to the end that the purposes of our Liberty Lads is not submerged in generalities about the defense on the eastern front. Millions of fathers, mothers, sisters and relatives in this country are aching for authentic news which will be forthcoming now that Black Jack has cut the knot of red tape and is going to furnish reliable information from the borders of No Man's Land.

The effect of moral support on the battling allies is evidenced by the latest report from Italy asking for a small representation of United States troops on the Italian front. The people of that country have not yet come to a full sense of the presence of the Americans in the war and the appearance of the Stars and Stripes floating over a small detachment will work wonders in heartening Italy in the struggle.

England is awaking to the grievous error of her diplomatic corps in not countering the insidious propaganda of the Huns in undermining the new republic and good results may be expected as soon as the slow moving Britons begin to manifest interest in the welfare of the benighted Slavs who are buffeted between anarchy and socialism.

The shah of Persia knows a good thing when he sees it in applying for \$100,000 of the third Liberty loan. For a precarious oryal existence there cannot be any greater satisfaction than knowing there is an anchor out to windward.

After the kaiser found the people of Ukraine would not endure his bullying it was deemed expedient to call off the army of invasion. The worm that has turned may yet prove to be a venomous reptile that should have been avoided.

Judging from the number of baseless accusations and recriminations regarding war operations in both the United States and Great Britain it appears that hostilities are getting on the nerves of somebody.

The withdrawal of the big guns that have been hammering at churches and hospitals of Paris implies that the long range artillery is an expensive luxury that cannot be maintained for any length of time.

It is pleasing to observe that the overworked postoffice employees are to receive their share of the increased cost of living. The recognition come late, but it is better late than never.

MACHINE GUN MOST DESTRUCTIVE WEAPON IN HANDS OF THE ARMY

(By Associated Press.)

LONDON, May 17.—"Of all the weapons used in the present war, the machine gun has unquestionably proved itself the most efficient," says a British expert in the Daily Mail. "Probably a majority of the casualties in the war have been caused by this weapon; certainly the greater proportion of the enormous losses during the fighting of the past few weeks have been so inflicted."

"Any type of machine gun in the hands of a skilful operator has the same destructive effect upon men moving in mass formation that a keen-edged scythe has in a field of ripened wheat. It cuts broad swaths; nothing can stand against it."

"A well-served machine gun is the most formidable thing that attacking battalions have to face. It is not merely the front ranks that suffer. At anything approaching close ranges,

the bullets will go through the front rank men, often through the second rank as well, and kill or wound those immediately behind them."

There are several types of machine gun now in use in the British army, such as the Lewis, the Maxim, the Vickers, and the Hotchkiss. All are very mobile. They can be moved quickly from one place to another, advantage being taken of any cover that offers. Each class of machine gun has with it a squad of about ten men. Should they find themselves pressed too closely, they pick up their weapon, fall back with it, and reopen fire upon the enemy from the next favorable position.

One authority has declared that in the field one machine gun is worth almost a whole battalion of men armed with rifles. Few soldiers can keep up 15 rounds per minute rapid fire with a rifle, but a machine gun can discharge 600 rounds in a min-

ute, and the Vickers can discharge 1600 rounds without stopping. Bullets pour from the muzzle in a rapid devastating stream, and as these guns use the same kind of ammunition as a rifle, there is little difficulty in keeping them fed.

The Lewis gun is described as the most mobile. One man fires it, using 47 rounds in succession. Beside him is another man who puts on fresh trays of ammunition as required, the change being made in two seconds. Meanwhile other men are hard at work filling trays and passing them on for use. The gun has an effective range of about 1200 yards and can be fired either from a stand or a parapet, the gunner placing the piece to his shoulder as he pulls the trigger.

The Maxim and Vickers guns are fired from a tripod, the gunners squatting with legs astraddle, and pressing a key. As long as he keeps his finger on the key the gun continues streaming out bullets as the belts, each holding 250 cartridges, fly through it. Gripping the handles with both hands, the gunner moves his weapon back and forth, playing on the advancing troops much as a fireman plays a hose on a burning building. Guns of this kind can also be used for putting up barages, and it is possible to attack with them targets one cannot see.

At the beginning of the war, the British army had two machine guns to each infantry battalion. The number is now much larger. In addition, a special machine gun corps has been formed.

BLIND GIRLS GIVE FINE EXHIBITION

(By Associated Press.)

ALAMOGORDO, N. M., May 17.—Folk dances, gymnastic exercises, ballet dancing and marches were given here recently by the blind girls attending the New Mexico school for the blind. In spite of their handicap the girls gave an exhibition which was praised as the equal of many given by girls who had their sight. It was a part of the annual commencement and was followed by a Red Cross benefit dance which was participated in by the girls of the school and the music furnished by the school orchestra composed of blind boys and girls.

MODEL LAUNDRY IS MADE KNOCK-DOWN

(By Associated Press.)

FORT BLISS, Tex., May 17.—An inspector from the war department was here recently and recommended that the post laundry be used as a model for those in France because of its arrangement and also because of the fact it can be enlarged to meet additional needs, being built on the unit plan. The laundry is conducted by civilians for the convenience of the soldiers and none but soldier work is accepted. The building, which is of steel, can be knocked down and shipped to the border or another post within a short time.

WAR STAMP CLUBS START A RIVALRY

(By Associated Press.)

EL PASO, Tex., May 17.—War and thrift stamp clubs are being organized in all of the factories, shops, offices, schools, clubs and churches here. Every organization in the city is being canvassed and a supply of war and thrift stamps left with the superintendents and foremen for distribution among their employees. Each organization is listed as a war stamp club and contests are started among rival concerns to see which will dispose of the greatest number of stamps. The result has been an increase in the sale of the stamps in El Paso.

Y. M. C. A. TRAINING CAMP ESTABLISHED

(By Associated Press.)

FORT BLISS, Tex., May 17.—A training camp for Young Men's Christian association secretaries has been established here and the wearers of the red triangle are attending school daily to prepare them for duty in France. The course which is being given at the training camp here extends over a period of three weeks and includes religious, athletic and educational training. A canvass is being made in El Paso and along the border for recruits over the draft age for the association work.

TEXAS SCOUTS GET TREASURY MEDALS

(By Associated Press.)

EL PASO, Tex., May 17.—Boy Scouts sold \$50,000 worth of Liberty bonds during the drive which just closed here. As a reward for their efforts thirty of the boys were mentioned for treasury department medals. The boys working night and day, canvassed the business section and marching through the streets selling bonds to everyone who would buy. On the closing night of the drive they were stationed at each of the local banks.

USING SADDLE POLISH

(By Associated Press.)
 FORT BLISS, Tex., May 17.—Saddle soap which is used for cleaning harness and saddles by the cavalry station here, has been found to be an excellent substitute for shoe polish in shining cavalry boots and leather puttees. With a moist sponge, the soap is applied to the boots or shoes and a first class shine is the result.

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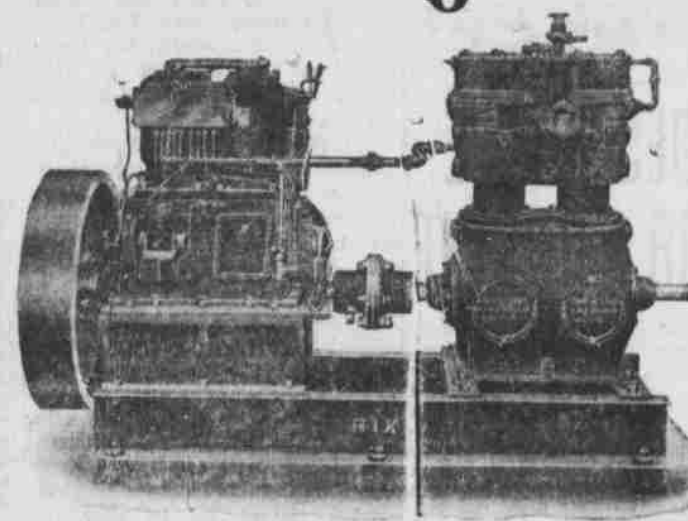
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